

Sports Commission/Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 27, 2018
Langston-Brown CC, Room 109
Time: 7:00-9:45 PM

Commission Members Present:

Shirley Brothwell, Chair	Patricia Trapanese
Jessica Paska	John Bacon
Drew Murray	Steve Severn
Corey Simples	

Commission Members Absent:

Justin Wilt	Janet Eichers
Sherry Kohan	David Tornquist

County/APS Staff:

Josh Colman, SC Liaison	Jane Rudolph, DPR Director
Jennifer Fioretti, DPR Deputy Director	Robin Leonard, DPR
Peter Lusk, DPR	Chikwe Njoku, CPHD
Marco Rivero, DPR	John Blevins, DPR
Rebecca Schmitt, DPR	Richard Tucker, CPHD

Please note: Agenda items may not be in chronological order.

Introductions

[7:02-7:04 pm]

Members from both commissions, staff, and visitors introduced themselves.

FY19 Budget Overview

[7:04-8:03 pm]

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Director, Jane Rudolph and DPR Deputy Director, Jennifer Fioretti provided a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2019 budget and the Open Data and Transparency Initiative respectively.

- There is an approximately \$20 million budget gap for the County. Assessed taxes were lower than anticipated, with commercial taxes significantly down.
- Departments were given budget cut targets that needed to be met. Staff will provide a copy of the budget presentation for the commissions' information.
- APS also has a gap- there is no additional funding for schools beyond standard agreement.
- Overview of expense and revenue for the Department. Discussion of proposed reductions to DPR.
- Reminder about upcoming Budget Work Session for DPR, scheduled for March 13.
- Questions about park maintenance and how that funding will continue to be handled. While there are maintenance reductions this year, it has been reduced in the past- and considering new parks may come online, how will that be handled?
 - Other reductions may be in the mix for future years. New parks can be a mixed bag- some newer parks are easier to maintain compared with older amenities, while others may call for maintenance where there previously was not a need.
- Questions about the Gunston Community Field- what is the expected return (how many years)?
 - Hoping the investment in irrigation and infrastructure will let the field work for several years. Need to work on the communication plan for resting the field- that's been a big part of the problem in the past.
- Discussion on tension between parks versus recreation side- how can that be managed to limit conflict?

Presentation on the Open Data Initiative from Jennifer Fioretti (DPR Deputy Director).

- Overview of the open data initiative and how DPR handles data sharing.
- DPR currently has eight data sets on reservation data that are publicly available. They tend to be the most requested, so they were posted first.
- Working on additional information to be released in the future, including Aquatics, Gymnastics, and DPR league data.
- Decisions on what to include (or what to prioritize) are based on what tends to be the most requested information.
- Overview of data security and how the Open Data system works. Portal uses automated data feeds- and pulls information on a daily basis. Any static data is verified prior to posting.
- Questions on the program:
 - Resources used for the portal? There are no additional resources for the program. The main challenge lies in having enough capacity (time) to complete the work, since there are no additional staff for this program.
 - Are there data sets on open space? No, there is not tracking for this.
 - Timing on next data sets being released? Late Spring/Summer.
 - How is Open Data defined? Who decides when something goes into the Open Data system? Constituents can request information through the Open Data Portal. Generally speaking, data tends to be dynamic, not static.
- Additional discussion on FOIA, standard data sets across various jurisdictions, staff training, and budget information.

4MRV

[7:11-7:40 pm]

Presentation and overview of the Draft Policy Framework for the 4 Mile Run Valley.

- Update on schedule outlook and plan for framework advertisement/adoption.
 - Plan is to advertise a revised version in April, followed by County Board adoption in May.
- Overview of draft vision statement, developed by staff.
- Review of Area Plan previous concepts- identified areas as follows:
 - Preserve Existing Uses
 - Preserve Existing Uses/Arts Oriented Uses
 - Broader Uses
- Feedback from working group and community at large resulted in scaled back recommendation from staff.
- Review of Parks Master Plan for Jennie Dean Park.
 - Overview of two phases for Jennie Dean.
 - Phase 1- implementation of two diamond fields, casual use parallel to South Four Mile Run, new picnic shelter, restroom facilities, playground, and continuation of tree canopy.
 - Phase 2- overlay of rectangular field (moved to larger diamond field, rather than between both diamond fields). Addition of sports courts (two tennis, one basketball), additional casual use space.
 - Some Working Group members preferred Option 3- placement of fields/lighting further from the Nauck Community, improved playground accessibility, and casual use space on Four Mile Run Drive.
 - In Option 3, Phase 1 includes the smaller diamond field, with phase 2 including the larger diamond field and sport courts.
- County Board Guidance
 - New workgroup formed (Jennie Dean Park Committee)- to determine whether there are safety concerns relating to siting of athletic fields.
 - Upcoming meetings (open to public). Committee to be chaired by Elizabeth Gearin.
- Shirlington Park
 - Consensus reached on park. Able to maintain tree canopy, exercise stations, and trail as part of the final design.
 - Parks Master Plan will include short and mid-term recommendations for improving the dog park, but not a redevelopment plan.
- Other Recommendations
 - Additional Access to 4MRV stream
 - Allie Freed Park- keep natural and create a gateway to the park.
 - Arts District- staff supportive of arts district idea. Work with Arts Commission and conduct further evaluation/research.

- 2-Block Area in the Park Planning Area
 - Purchased with park bond funds years ago.
 - Over time, convert warehouses to open space (there is no timeline set for this).
 - Plan a new community facility at 3700 (could incorporate arts, community use, open space, etc.).
- County Board Guidance on 2-Block Area
 - Remove from Park Planning Area.
 - Preserve flexibility in the 3 County owned properties.
 - Think about ways open space can be achieved.
- Parking/Safety Overview
 - Looking for ways to promote turnover in parking.
 - Continuing traffic flow analysis/planning.
 - Trying to work with NOVA Parks on sidewalk improvements/changes on sidewalks on North side of 4MRV.
 - There was support for County supported structured parking (garages), however County Board had no interest in garages for this location.

Question/Comments on 4MRV from Commission Members

- How was the new working group created? Process that came out of the County Board work session. Staff were directed to form the Jennie Dean Park Committee.
 - Also a recommendation from 4MRV leadership- safety questions have come up.
 - This is another attempt to try to get a group supportive of park design.
- Questions on the draft vision statement- staff highlighted certain sections of the vision statement for tonight's meeting.
- 2-Block Area Discussion/Comments
 - Arts Committee recommended for Arts uses, while Park and Recreation Commission and Sports Commission pushed back on that. Commissions supported using area as open space.
 - County Board did not have an issue with the bond dollars being used (previously identified for park uses).
 - Discussion on Working Group being split (vote was 11-11). Belief that the Working Group missed an opportunity.
 - Opportunities still available to get creative and find open space. Discussion on if Commissions can work collaboratively to find opportunities in other areas. Look for ways to get creative about where things can go- the Working Group has shown little creativity to date.

Arlington County Field Classification Changes

[8:55-9:14 pm]

Robin Leonard from DPR presented the upcoming field classification changes.

- This is in response to more community demand for use of local fields, during the day or unused times.
- Overview of affected fields that are changing.
- Fields open for non-structured use. Any group play is for 10 people or less (not intended for structured games or drop-in play for groups).
- Discussion of maintenance of the fields- there will always be time when the fields are closed (inclement weather, repairs, etc.).
- Communication plan will be released shortly. Changes go into effect on April 1.
- Questions/comment on dogs on the fields. Will count on enforcement via rovers, community, users.
- Maintenance questions- part of the communication plan is to ask the community for assistance- all users benefit when the fields are maintained. Athletic field crews will monitor conditions as well. There are some stipulations if additional maintenance is needed- if a certain field is having issues, we maintain the ability to close it for repair/rest.
- Discussion on fencing fields- Sports Commission is in favor of fencing, while supporting opening the parks.

Public Comment

[9:14-9:24 pm]

Eric B., an Arlington resident and a representative of a small volleyball group, stated that the Quincy Park volleyball court was almost always booked by a third-party organization on Sundays, Saturdays, and Wednesdays. Arlington County residents are charged \$780 a year for use of the space by DC Fray, a third-party organization that runs a volleyball league. Westover Park also has this issue. His suggestion: reduce the for-profit companies from using the facilities back-to-back and reduce the availability of certain play permits.

Joint-Meeting Ends- Sports Commission moves to the MPR to finish SC business.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

[9:24-9:30 pm]

Review and motion to approve amended January meeting minutes, seconded, approved.

Commission Member Reports

[9:30-9:45 pm]

- JFAC- discussion on whether this should still be followed. If there is no sports aspect, SC may want to move on.

- Long Bridge Center Fee Group- Sherry will be the Sports Commission representative, as well as the two members of the Aquatics Committee who are on the group.
- Parks and Recreation Commission- Drew will be the representative to the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Reed School- Shirley drafted a letter on the concept design for the Reed School to be sent to the school board. Discussions with the Parks and Recreation Commission on whether it can be a joint-letter. Overview of letter contents and project. Commission votes in favor to send the letter.
- Underserved Populations- group met with the APS Extended Day program. They want to do a pilot program- looking for a different sport.

Meeting Ends at 9:45pm.

Christian Dorsey, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Josh Colman

Josh Colman, Staff Liaison